

BRITZ'S HEADQUARTERS

By MARCIN BARBER
ILLUSTRATIONS BY RAY WATERS

SYNOPSIS.

CHAPTER I.—The story opens with a scene from Dorothy March's, a charming debutante, in the opera box of the Metropolitan Opera House in New York City. It is occasioned by Mrs. Milson's diamond necklace breaking and scattering the string of rare and costly gems all over the floor. Curtis Griswold and Bruton Sands, two society men, both of whom love Mrs. Milson, gather up some of the diamonds, but the gem of the collection, the celebrated Maharajah, is missing. Griswold steps on the apparent missing diamond and it crushes under his heel. A Hindoo comes from an adjoining box, picking up a stake of the crushed gem pronounces it a fraud, not the genuine Maharajah, but—paste.

CHAPTER II.—The entire party proceed to the elegant mansion of Mrs. Milson, where she takes them to a room having a safe containing other diamonds. She afterwards sends Bruton Sands, an expert, who pronounces the stones all copies, substitutions, of the original gems.

CHAPTER III.—Bruton Sands (telephone police headquarters and two detectives, Donnelly and Carson, arrive on the scene. They examine the safe and decide that the theft of the diamonds was accomplished by some one in the house. The servants are questioned, but without result. Picking up a stake of the crushed gem pronounces it a fraud, not the genuine Maharajah, but—paste.

CHAPTER IV.—The detectives incline to the belief that Miss Milson is involved in the robbery. They search her room and find one of the original diamonds. Mrs. Milson protests that Elton is guiltless, but the delicate girl is marched off to prison.

CHAPTER V.—Meanwhile, in an up-town mansion, the Hindoo of the theater episode, who is known as the Swami, and a Hindoo prince, Kananda, discuss the arrest. They are in the United States to recover the Maharajah, which is a sacred relic of India, and are puzzled at the discovery of the imitation.

CHAPTER VI.—Detective Britz, an expert of the police force, now takes up the case. He interviews Elton who is portrayed by the cloud resting on her. The detective evidently believes the girl innocent.

CHAPTER VII.—Dr. Lawrence Finch, the fiancé of Elton, visits her in prison. She is remanded for trial on suspicion of being the thief. Britz talks encouragingly to Finch and asks his co-operation in running down the real criminal.

CHAPTER VIII.—The detective advises that Elton does not seem half bad. He makes a close investigation of affairs at the home of Mrs. Milson.

CHAPTER IX.—Britz learns that Mrs. Milson while visiting Paris had the diamonds with her. He cables the police there and they determine that the diamonds were made from drawings of the original stones. A person ordering the substitutes gave the name of Elton Finch.

CHAPTER X.—The detective has an interview with Mrs. Milson. He learns who Elton Finch can draw. He eventually offers to assist him, showing that he is an artist. The detective is suddenly seized and thrown into a closed automobile.

CHAPTER XI.—A wild ride ensues and Britz finds he has been made captive by three Hindoos. He tries to escape but is bound and drugged.

CHAPTER XII.—His captors imprison Britz in a deserted house. He finally manages to get free from his bonds, escapes and reports at headquarters how convinced that the Hindoos are materially interested in the case.

CHAPTER XII.

The Empty Apartment.

When Britz groped his way out of the slumber sleep he had known in many a year, it was in absolute ignorance of his whereabouts. He gasped desperately several times before he returned to anything like his normal breathing.

Mingled with the peculiar taste of the smothering dark was a faint odor unlike anything in the headquarters man's experience.

It had a persistence all its own, and when he tried to persuade himself his sensory nerves had played a trick upon him, it wreathed into his nostrils with unmistakable individuality.

Britz needed no effort to rise to tell him he still was bound hand and foot, and in the first instant of his full awakening he realized the silken gag still held his speech in thrall. He bit the ball of silk savagely, and strained his tongue until the roots ached in endeavors to force the gag out of his mouth. As well might he, helpless as to hands and feet as he was, have tried to shake off a gorilla's grip at his throat. Yet the seeming hopelessness of his plight did not disturb him greatly. He had been in worse places. It was a question of patience, perseverance and pluck, and when it came to virtue qualities, the famous Central office man was abundantly and alliteratively equipped.

He tested his bonds—gently at first, then vigorously, then with all his strength.

He was not a shadow, but he had abundance of pliant and serviceable strength. After many minutes passed in vain efforts to free himself, he relaxed his body and limbs for a short but complete rest, meanwhile hending his mind to the task of determining where he was. The result of his mental endeavor was as fruitless as the other. All he knew at the end of it was that he lay on a bare floor in a room which, from the sound of his heels on the boards, he judged was small. That thought suggested to him a means of summoning help other than vocal.

He began drumming on the boards.

TRAIN CREW ARE BLAMED FOR THE I. C. COLLISION

Chicago, Jan. 24.—The board of inquiry that investigated the Kinmundy wreck on the Illinois Central in which J. T. Harahan and three other railroad officials lost their lives, today placed the blame for the accident upon three members of the train crew, Conductor John H. Brainerd and Flagman Henry Broecker, of train No. 25, and Engineer Robert Stuart, of train No. 3. All were found guilty of negligence in the performance of duty.

The members of the board agreed upon their findings last night at Centralia, after they had taken testimony at Champaign and visited the scene of the wreck. The board then came to Chicago, today, on a special train. The findings were signed by every member of the board.

The decision holds Conductor Brainerd and Flagman Broecker of train No. 25 responsible "because they failed to use the means they had in their power to protect their train. Engineer Stuart is blamed for negligence in failing to take due precautions when he knew that another train was running but a few minutes ahead of him."

The company is relieved of any blame for the accident by a clause in the findings, which states that its rules governing the movement of trains are very strict and that had the ordinary instructions been followed an accident would have been impossible.

The board made a complete review of the company's system of handling trains. It calls attention that no effort was made by either flagman or conductor of train No. 25 to throw out a yellow fuse before the train was brought to a stop at Kinmundy water tank. This is a slow down signal and would have put the crew

on alert and explored the room. From the style of its finish it evidently was a section of an unoccupied apartment in a new and rather pretentious building, a room planned to be cut off from the rest of the suite, for it seemed to give directly on the hall and was separated from its neighbor by a fireproof door of massive steel. He seized the handle. It turned readily, but the door did not open. The same was true of the door between the room and the hall. He shook both doors with all his strength, but they had been locked too tightly to yield. It was apparent the kidnappers had made him a prisoner in full knowledge of the unlikelihood he would be released speedily. That they had plotted his death was not certain, but it was unmistakable they had given themselves little, if any, concern in that respect. Britz thought of the possibilities of fire as he had lain bound on the floor, and an unpleasant sensation passed over him; but he hastened back to the window and examined the outside of the building with a view to escape in that direction. He did not expect to overtake his abductors quickly, nor was he even of a mind to devote the bulk of his time to that purpose. But he regarded the capture of his recent captors as an important side enterprise to the solution of the great diamond mystery, and habit made him eager to begin working without delay.

There was a fire escape on the floor whence he looked out—a thoroughly modern contrivance with flat steps, and a really serviceable handrail—but it did not run to the window at which he stood. However, Britz had more than one attribute of the lynx, and it did not tax his agility greatly to reach the balcony while still gripping the window frame securely, and with one quick movement, to swing himself over the ladder rail. It was the work of a minute or two to run down the easy steps to the first floor above the street and, from that point, he had only a short drop to the sidewalk.

He stroiled in a casual way to the front of the big apartment building, which looked toward the Hudson, and noting its location, quickened his pace, walking south until he came to a cab stand. He gave a chauffeur the number of the Swami's house, jumped into a taxicab and continued his course in a southerly direction, the driver in obedience to his instructions wheeling east at Seventy-second street and turning into the park.

(To Be Continued.)

Sentence Is Affirmed.

Columbus, O., Jan. 24.—Supreme court, today, affirmed the sentence of ten years in the penitentiary given to Eddie Kelly and Andrew Ralph in Fulton county courts for dynamiting the Home Savings bank, Metamora, and looting it of \$2,800.

Some Rivalry This.

New York, Jan. 24.—So keen is the rivalry among bidders at the sale of the art collection of Miss Emily Grigby, that ladies worth only a few hundred dollars have been sold for \$6,700.

The peach crop having been killed twelve already, we may be justified in counting on a heavy preserving season next fall.

How's This?

We offer One Hundred Dollars Reward for any case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by Hall's Catarrh Cure. P. J. Cheney & Co., Toledo, O. We, the undersigned, have known P. J. Cheney for the last 15 years, and believe him perfectly honorable in all business transactions and financially able to carry out any obligations made by him.

Walding, Kinnear & Marvlin, Wholesale Druggists, Toledo, O. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. Testimonials free. Price 75¢ per bottle. Sold by all druggists. Take Hall's Family Pills for constipation.

of No. 3, the train following, on its guard, the report says.

The crew of No. 25 was also supplied with red fuses, a stop signal for the train following. These signals could easily have been used yet the report declares no effort was made to use them and Broecker "failed even to carry out the instructions he did receive from the conductor."

Hundreds of friends gathered about the bier of James T. Harahan at the family home on Michigan avenue. High officials of the Illinois Central railroad and the Rock Island sat with members of the family and relatives during the services. Many Illinois employees who were personally acquainted with the former president, were also present.

Another group of mourners attended the services for E. O. Melner at his home in Winnetka. The offices of the Rock Island railroad here were closed today and all except emergency business was suspended out of respect for the dead vice president.

Services were held at Menomonee today, for E. B. Wright, son of former Secretary of War Luke Wright, and at North Smith, Arkansas, for E. B. Pierce.

A special Illinois Central funeral train will bear the body of former President Harahan to Memphis, tonight. Services will be held there tomorrow afternoon, and the body will be interred there.

The remains will be accompanied by Mrs. Harahan and a number of Illinois Central officials.

Candidate for Recorder.
Joseph E. Cheney, who resides on Burnhart street, has taken out primary nomination papers on the Republican ticket for recorder. Mr. Cheney is prominently known here.

Want First Hand Information.
Washington, Jan. 24.—Despite publication of the Bureau of Corporations' report on the cost of production of steel by the "steel trust," the Stanley investigating committee will insist on securing first-hand information on this point from the corporation's cost sheets.

"The report," said Chairman Stanley, "does not show on its face its source of information. The committee will insist that figures be secured from the books of the company."

James A. Farrell, president of the steel corporation, assumed the stand, today. He admitted that cheaper prices for steel rails were made for foreign consumers in markets where foreign competition was met.

Farrell discussed the "reward" system of the corporation, and said that \$1,400,000 was set aside last year to be divided among employees of the company who do efficient, meritorious work.

Discussing the employees' stock subscription scheme, the corporation, Farrell said in addition to the regular dividends, employees receive a bonus of \$5 a share a year.

To Cure a Cold in One Day.
Take LAXATIVE BROMO Quinine Tablets. Druggists refund money if it fails to cure. E. W. GROVE'S signature is on each box. 25c.

Urges Federal Control.
St. Paul, Minn., Jan. 24.—Federal control of telephone companies on a plan similar to that in use to supervise railway traffic, was urged, before the Minnesota Independent Telephone association by Sanford Savage, of Champaign, Illinois, president of the National Independent Telephone association.

He also favored unrestricted interline connection and advised that the public be taken into the confidence of the independent companies.

Cooking Contest for Suffragettes.
Philadelphia, Jan. 24.—Mrs. Rudolph Blankenship, wife of Philadelphia's mayor, is going to set up a cooking contest for suffragettes, to show that political activities haven't kept them from learning how to cook.

Dies Ailing Patient.
New Philadelphia, O., Jan. 24.—Stricken while attending a patient in his office, Dr. J. E. Wenman, 69, died of heart failure here yesterday.

Dr. Wenman was editor and publisher of the Light of Life, a widely read religious magazine. Before becoming a physician he was a Baptist missionary in the West Indies for many years. He is survived by two sons, both surgeons in the English army, stationed at Hongkong, China.

Dr. Wenman had practiced in Cleveland, Lorain and Norwalk.

McKinley Will Interpret.
Columbus, O., Jan. 24.—Supreme court, interpreted the will of the martyred president, William McKinley, as devising his property to his widow and to her heirs at her death. Suit was instituted in Stark county following Mrs. McKinley's death by a brother and grandchildren of McKinley for a share in the rentals of the McKinley block, Canton. Mrs. Mary Barber, Mrs. McKinley's sister, won in all three courts.

Irish Players Dismissed.
Philadelphia, Pa., Jan. 24.—The eleven members of the Irish Players company, arrested last week because of members of the can Na Gael decided their play, "The Playboy of the Western World," was immoral, were ordered discharged by Judge Carr. He expressed no opinion as to whether the play was immoral, but simply threw the case out of the court.

Picks Pockets Only on Fridays.
Pittsburgh, Pa., Jan. 24.—Known to the police of a dozen cities are the "Friday afternoon girl," Annie Kruger, twenty-five, again is charged with pocketpicking. The police allege she operates only Friday afternoons.

A request for a complete statement showing the cost of Philippine occupation, approved by the House committee, shows a reckless curiosity.

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FOR SALE FOR RENT

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People's WANT Column

LOST or FOUND STRAYED or STOLEN

Wanted.

WANTED—Housework of any kind to do by the day. Phone X-1247. 1-22-31p

Glasses Fitted.

J. S. LUNGER, M. D., fits glasses, removes adenoids, treats the diseases of the eye, ear, nose and throat. Office 292 S. Main St., opposite Marion's temple. Phone 85. 6-24-1f

For Sale.

FOR SALE—1 will sell for the next 10 days, 2,000 pounds of land and 1,500 pounds of sugar cured ham and breakfast bacon at 12 1/2 cts. per lb. for strictly cash. One pub-

Cooke Files Big Suits.

Cincinnati, Jan. 24.—Two suits jointly asking damages to \$205,315 from the Big Four railroad and Mayor Henry T. Hunt, were filed, Tuesday, in common pleas court by Edgar Street Cooke, of Chicago, who was a clerk in the Big Four railroad offices under Charles L. Warriner, embarking treasurer.

Cooke also filed suit yesterday, asking for \$100,000 damages from the railroad and Leonard J. Hackney, its chief counsel.

Following the first action, Cooke announced that he was after men "high up" in the Big Four shortage. Warriner, who is in the penitentiary, has confessed that he was responsible for the looting of \$643,000 of the railroad's funds.

Malicious prosecution is charged in the petitions against Hunt and the railroad.

County Sells Liquor.
Kenton, O., Jan. 24.—A county official selling intoxicating liquor at auction from the steps of the court house in a dry county, was the spectacle witnessed by hundreds of people who gathered at the sale here yesterday.

Deputy Sheriff John Lawrence was "cried" and County Treasurer Paul Watts, clerk.

Some time ago in "Smashers" was raided here, two barrels of beer and several quarts of whiskey and gin being confiscated. As there was no way for the proprietor of the place to pay the Alken tax or fines, the problem of what to do with the wet goods was presented to Attorney General Hogan, who advised a public sale.

The bidding was spirited, the liquor being sold in a few minutes at a good price.

With regard to the latest woman suffrage event, it looks as if the King of Sweden saw it coming and went out to meet it and steal its thunder.

Big G
Borated Colman's Compound
A safe and simple remedy for Croup, Croup, Hoarse, Sore Throat, Inflammation, Irritation, Coughs, and all kinds of ailments of the throat, chest, stomach or urinary organs.
AT DRUGGISTS 25c
If it does not cure, your money is refunded.
The Great Colman's Compound, U.S.A.

Sunburst Hard Coal
Costs no more but lasts longer and gives more heat.
Pocahontas \$4.50
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ber tire runabout, one, rubber tire surrey, one spring wagon, one good driving horse, city broke and 2 tons of hay in mow and will sell cheap if sold in next ten days. 307 Un-capher Ave. 1-15-6t

FOR SALE—House and lot convenient to shops; 6 rooms, slate roof, new foundation; in good repair; low price; will be sold on small down payment and balance monthly. Address O. C. Conger at Marion Livery and Transfer office. Phone 166. 1-22-31p

FOR SALE—2 Jersey cows, one fresh in about a week, and other fresh in 4 weeks; they are No. 1 Jerseys. Call Kensington Place, M. Makiewicz. Phone 3 on 1029. 1-22-6tp

FOR SALE—The concrete blocks that have material in them to make them ring like steel. J. L. Price Co., telephone 284. 10-1f

FOR SALE—Good bargains in Ashtabula county farms; also Marion property for sale or rent. See E. J. Cox, Real Estate Agent, over Turner's grocery. Phone R-470.

FOR SALE—Best guaranteed roofing in Marion county. Inquire of J. L. Price Co., Tel. 284. 10-1f

FOR SALE—Concrete fence posts; guaranteed; the kind you can staple to; no wood. J. L. Price Co., telephone 284. 10-1f

FOR SALE—Best grades Portland cement; quality and price guaranteed; also White Rock plaster, the kind that sticks to the wall and does not crack. J. L. Price Co., Telephone 284. 10-1f

FOR SALE—Sewer pipe, drain tile and all kinds of building material; prices right; let us figure your material for you; can tell you the proper amounts you will need; incidentally we have the best grades of coal. J. L. Price Co., telephone 284. 10-1f

FOR SALE—84 acres of land on a pike, running water at the barn and in the pasture, 1-4 mile to school, 1 mile to church, land a little rolling; gravel soil; adapted to raising potatoes and all kinds of grain; new six-room house, cellar, barn 20x30, 2 sheds adjoining, granary 15x20, new poultry house and other buildings; new pike tax paid; about 75 fruit trees, some grapes, etc.; owners going into other business. Also 112 acres on pike road, 1-2 mile from school and church, 100 acres of which is under cultivation, 12 acres wood lot, about 300 rods of tiling, outlet paid for; 50 acres in black land, balance gravel and yellow clay; 7-room house, cellar, barn 35x50; two adjoining sheds, corn crib 20x24, cow barn 10x20, 1 1/2-ton scale, 2 living springs in pasture, 2 good wells and cistern, plenty of fruit, good market. Also other farms of 16 acres up. For particulars inquire of Lippincott

FOR SALE—One new seven room house on the Boulevard, corner of Columbia street. Modern. Will sell on easy terms. \$2500.00.

FOR SALE—New seven room house on Olney Avenue, third south of Columbia. Small payment down, balance on easy terms. \$13500.00.

FOR SALE—Six room house on Mound street. Gas, well, cistern, in excellent condition. \$13500.00, \$1500 per month.

FOR SALE—One five room house on Henry St. \$14500.00; \$1400 per month.

FOR SALE—Two new houses on Avondale, not yet finished, at \$17500.00, easy terms.

FOR SALE—One new house on Mary street, near Silk Mills at \$18500.00, easy payments.

FOR SALE—One new six room house on Hane avenue, near Indiana. Will sell on easy terms.

Will have for early spring trade a new strictly modern home on east Church, near Seffner avenue. This will be very desirable and will sell at \$15000.00. See

FOR SALE
One new seven room house on the Boulevard, corner of Columbia street. Modern. Will sell on easy terms. \$2500.00.

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Are now due and must be paid. If you find yourself without the necessary money with which to meet them. Come to us and we will loan you what you need.

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FOR RENT—3-room flat and store room at 303 North State, or phone R-1101. John Hanley. 1-23-6tp

FOR SALE—White pine lath; fine ones. Inquire before purchasing. Yours truly, J. L. Price Co.; use cedar posts. Telephone 284. 10-1f

5,000 PEOPLE—Wanted in Marion to use Sure Shot Remedy for neuritis and rheumatic trouble. Laboratory, 316 North State. For sale by all druggists. Sure Shot Remedy Co. 2-12-1f

For Rent.
FOR RENT—Store room, corner east Center and State streets, opposite Hotel Marion. Apply Thomas H. Hodder, 322 East Center street, or Salter in store. 1-23-6tp

FOR RENT—First house west of Presbyterian church, 232 West Church street, after Feb. 1, 1912. See Mrs. Rhu, at office. 1-19-6teod

FOR RENT—To rent two modern houses, centrally located and one six-room house in West Marion. J. W. Jacoby. Phone 69 or 839. 12-13-1f

FOR RENT—Furnished room; gentleman preferred. Call at 612 east Church street. 12-1f

Miscellaneous.
FOR TRADE—Good 5-room house on Senate St.; will price it for \$883; will take vacant lot as part pay and balance \$7 per month. Bain Bros. 1-23-31p

FOR AUCTIONEERING—At sales of any and all kinds, at any time, see Carey Hensel, Marion R. R. 1, or call at this office. 12-7-1f

J. WILBUR JACOBY has moved into new law offices on east Center St., over Nelson's jewelry store. He will continue to practice in all courts and will give special attention to the settlement of estates. Office phone 69, residence 839. 9-2-1f

MOVING, TRANSFER AND STORAGE—We move, crate, store, and do transfer work at any time. Phone 1605, S. Knoch, 222 Belmont.

LOST—A long black pocketbook held with a rubber band. It contained money and papers when lost. Report at the Mirror office. 12-29-1f

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Country Homes from 6 acres up to 1300. City homes \$550 up to \$14,000. Some small lots up to one; two and three acre lots. Homes in Bucyrus, Marion, Delaware and Columbus. Business of many varieties to sell you. Some homes at sacrifice prices. A good home in Delaware with a small grocery attached. A fine home in Bucyrus at a bargain. Some splendid homes in Columbus. Some bargains in Marion North Seffner, seven room house. On State street, neat cottage home, price low, on sharp street 8 room house, price astonishingly low, on Bennett street, 8 room house, slate roof and barn, cheap. On Orchard street a cozy home right in town, this is good every way. A neat home on Orchard street, only \$2500. You miss Marion's best bargains when you fail to call on

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Cut and Make to Your Measure.
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